

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 071610Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8707

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS KARACHI 0416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRB, BTIO, PK

SUB: SPECIAL TRADE OPPORTUNITY: AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT.

REF : A) ISLAMABAD 1954

B) KARACHI A-126 DEC. 2, 1974

C) KARACHI MEMCON OF JAN. 9, 1975

PASS AGRICULTURE

1. FOR RECORD CONGEN WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IMTIAZ MEHDI NOT CHAIRMAN OF GOP BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT (BIM) AS REPORTED REFTEL A. POSITION OF CHAIRMAN BIM HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELD BY GOP MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (PRESENTLY RAFI RAZA). MEHDI IN FACT CHAIRMAN SIND MANAGEMENT BOARD WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 8, 1973, TO MANAGE GHEE INDUSTRY IN PROVINCE, WHICH WAS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1973. MANAGEMENT OF GHEE INDUSTRY WAS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO GOP/BIM BUT TRANSFERRED TO PROVINCIAL SMB AFTER 6 DAYS SINCE GHEE PRODUCTION NOT CONSIDERED A BASIC INDUSTRY SUITABLE FOR CONTINUED BIM MANAGEMENT.

2. CONGEN HAS REPORTED AT LENGTH IN REFS. B AND C ON UAE-SIND JOINT AGRICULTURAL VENTURE AND CATTLE PROJECT MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 6, REF. A. CONGENOFF CONTACTED MEHDI ON FEB. 7 AND LEARNED THAT HIS VARIOUS PROJECTS HAVE NO CONNECTION AT ALL WITH UAE/SIND PROJECT.

3. WHEN POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYMENT U.S. CONSULTANTS FOR HIS PROJECTS WAS MENTIONED, MEHDI SAID HE PREFERRED NOT TO USE CONSULTANTS BUT INSTEAD PLANNED TO SEND FEASIBILITY REPORT ON AGRO/INDUSTRIAL

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PROJECT, WHICH HIS STAFF IS PREPARING, TO FOREIGN FIRMS CAPABLE

OF SUPPLYING BAGASSE BASED PULP MILLS. MEHDI ALSO SAID HE HAD NO
DEFINITE IDEAS CONCERNING THE SOURCE OF FINANCING AT THIS POINT
BUT MENTIONED WORLD BANK AS POSSIBILITY.

COMMENT:

FROM SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING STATEMENTS MEHDI HAS MADE TO USAID AND
CONGEN OFFICERS AND HIS APPARENT HAZINESS CONCERNING NECESSITY FOR
VALID FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO ATTRACT FINANCING FROM INSTITUTIONS OF
WORLD BANK CALIBER, WE HESITANT TO CONCLUDE HIS IDEAS CONSTITUTE
GENUINE TRADE OPPORTUNITY AT THIS TIME.

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